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INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF DIRECTOR, INTERDEPARTMENTAL
FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION, AND CONSULTANTS ON TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 6, 1950, OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

PRESENT: Department of State - Mr. Barrett, Director
Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary
Mr. Oechsner
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Sargeant
Department of Defense - General Magruder
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
Central Intelligence Agency - [redacted] 25X1A
National Security Resources Board - Mr. Sheppard

Before taking up the scheduled agenda, Mr. Barrett suggested that the Board hold a special evening meeting to consider the question of answering Soviet propaganda, raised by Admiral Stevens, and other items which might require fuller discussion than was possible at regular meetings. It was agreed to hold such a special meeting at Mr. Barrett's house Wednesday, September 13, at 7 p.m.

Admiral Stevens reported on two items of concern to the Board:

First, he stated that he had received a letter from the Defense Department Information and Education Division asking for liaison with the Psychological Strategy Board. While his first reaction was unfavorable, he felt on further thought that there might be advantages in establishing such liaison in view of the close relation between propaganda and orientation of our troops. General Magruder and Mr. Sheppard commented that the establishment of formal liaison raised a practical question of the size of the Board and might lead to similar requests from other agencies. Mr. Barrett asked whether the representatives of the Department of Defense might not adequately cover the interests of Information and Education. General Magruder undertook to explore the matter further with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and it was agreed to place this matter on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.

Admiral Stevens second item related to the research contract with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He reported that the Army Signal Corps, in view of their related research projects, would wish to establish liaison with the Department and MIT. Mr. Barrett proposed that arrangements for such liaison be established through Mr. George Herrick, Chief Engineer for VOA, who is in direct charge of contacts with MIT.

SECRET

Mr. Phillips reported on the establishment of a working group to formulate psychological objectives and plans on China, headed by Mr. George Taylor, a State Department consultant and authority in this field, with working members drawn from POL, IFIS and PRS. He also reported that a paper on objectives, tasks and themes on Korea had been completed subject to final review.

Mr. Barrett raised the question of Soviet propaganda on U. S. bombing in Korea. He noted that this was becoming a major Soviet propaganda theme and the matter had been discussed with the Secretary of State and top policy officials. Mr. Phillips had prepared a memorandum outlining counter propaganda themes which had been discussed informally with Secretary Finletter and General Norstad. Admiral Stevens asked what steps would be taken to carry out these recommendations if satisfactory to the Air Force. After general discussion, Mr. Barrett recommended that proposals be drafted in the form of suggestions, checked informally with General Norstad and then cleared through the regular channels. Mr. Phillips was asked to supply a copy of the memorandum to Admiral Stevens.

Mr. Sargeant reported on the Assam proposal to carry medical supplies to aid in relief of earthquake victims. He stated that a letter on this subject had been prepared for the Secretary of State to the Secretary of Defense.

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[redacted] raised several questions regarding the research facilities of the RAND Corporation and the feasibility of utilizing these facilities for psychological warfare projects of interest to the Board. Admiral Stevens pointed out that the RAND Corporation is supported entirely by funds from the Air Force, but felt that the Air Force would welcome suggestions from the Board. Mr. Barrett undertook to explore this problem informally and report to the Board.

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